IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are indicated with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are indicated with underscoring. Also, please add new claims 13-20 shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A dry multiple-disk clutch for transmitting power from a drive shaft to a transmission input shaft, said dry multiple-disk clutch comprising:

an outer clutch member interlocked with the drive shaft so as to be driven for rotation by the drive shaft;

a plurality of driving friction disks interlocked with the outer clutch member;

a plurality of driven friction disks alternated with the driving friction disks and interlocked with the transmission input shaft;

a pressure member disposed opposite to the outer clutch member with the driving and the driven friction disks arranged alternately between the outer clutch member and the pressure member, which moves in opposite axial directions to compress the driving and the driven friction disks together and to disengage the driven friction disks from the driving friction disks; and

strap plates disposed between [[a]] peripheral [[part]] parts of the outer clutch member and peripheral parts of the driving friction disks, and connecting the respective peripheral parts of the outer clutch member and the driving friction disks, wherein said peripheral parts of adjoining one of the driving friction disks are disposed at different peripheral positions to prevent the strap plates connected to the adjoining driving friction disks from extending in a same angular region around the transmission input shaft.

2. (Currently amended) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 1, wherein each of the driving friction disks is provided with a plurality of external projections, the outer clutch member is provided with a plurality of external projections, studs are attached to the external projections of the outer clutch member, respectively, and each of the strap plates has one end attached to the external projection of a corresponding one of the driving friction disks and the other end fitted on a corresponding one of the studs, said outer clutch member having means for pressing the driving friction disks and the driven friction disks against each other.

3. (Previously presented) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 1, wherein the strap plates are substantially tangent to the circumferences of the driving friction disks.

4. (Original) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 1 further comprising strap plates disposed between respective peripheral parts of the outer clutch member and the pressure member, and connecting the outer clutch member and the pressure member.

5. (Original) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 4, wherein the strap plates connected to the pressure member are substantially tangent to the circumference of the pressure member.

6. (Currently amended) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 1, wherein the pressure member is provided with a plurality of external projections, the outer clutch member has external projections at said peripheral parts thereof, respectively, studs are attached to the

external projections of the outer clutch member, respectively, and each of the strap plates has one end attached to a corresponding one of the external projections of the pressure member, and the other end fitted on a stud attached to a corresponding one of the external projections of the outer clutch member, said external projections of the pressure member are disposed at peripheral positions different from peripheral positions of said peripheral parts of a driving friction disk situated nearest to the pressure member.

7. (Original) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 1, wherein a vibration control means is interposed between the outer clutch member and the driven friction disk adjacent to the outer clutch member.

8. (Previously presented) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 1, wherein the driven friction disk adjacent to the outer clutch member includes a vibration control mechanism.

9. (Previously presented) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 8, wherein the vibration control mechanism includes warped plate springs sandwiched between peripheral friction members.

10. (Previously presented) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 9, wherein said vibration control mechanism further includes grommets disposed with the warped plate springs between the peripheral friction members.

11. (Previously presented) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 8, wherein the vibration control mechanism includes an annular vibration control plate and a coned disk spring which operatively engages the vibration control plate.

12. (Previously presented) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 1, wherein the strap plates are formed of elastic metal.

13. (New) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 1, wherein the pressure member includes a planar contacting surface.

14. (New) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 1, wherein the outer clutch member is disposed outwardly of an outermost one of the driving friction disks relative to an axial direction of the clutch.

15. (New) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral parts of the outer clutch member and the driving friction disks are radially outermost peripheral parts.

16. (New) A dry multiple-disk clutch for transmitting power from a drive shaft to a transmission input shaft, said dry multiple-disk clutch comprising:

an outer clutch member interlocked with the drive shaft so as to be driven for rotation by the drive shaft;

a plurality of driving friction disks interlocked with the outer clutch member;

a plurality of driven friction disks alternated with the driving friction disks and

interlocked with the transmission input shaft;

a pressure member having a planar contacting surface disposed opposite to the outer clutch member with the driving and the driven friction disks arranged alternately between the outer clutch member and the pressure member, which moves in opposite axial directions to compress the driving and the driven friction disks together and to disengage the driven friction disks from the driving friction disks; and

straps plates and collar studs for operatively connecting the driving friction disks and the pressure member to the outer clutch member; wherein

the strap plates are disposed between peripheral parts of the outer clutch member and peripheral parts of the driving friction disks, and connecting the respective peripheral parts of the outer clutch member and the driving friction disks; and wherein

operating the drive shaft moves the driving friction disks and the pressure member via the strap plates thereby rotating the driving friction disks and the pressure member together with the outer clutch member, thus preventing air gaps therebetween and further preventing hitting sounds.

17. (New) A dry multiple-disk clutch for transmitting power from a crankshaft of a vehicle to a transmission input shaft thereof, said dry multiple-disk clutch comprising:

an outer clutch member interlocked with the crankshaft so as to be driven for rotation by the crankshaft;

a plurality of driving friction disks interlocked with the outer clutch member;

a plurality of driven friction disks alternated with the driving friction disks and interlocked with the transmission input shaft;

a pressure member disposed opposite to the outer clutch member with the driving and the driven friction disks arranged alternately between the outer clutch member and the pressure member, which moves in opposite axial directions to compress the driving and the driven friction disks together and to disengage the driven friction disks from the driving friction disks;

a vibration control mechanism disposed on surface of the driven friction disk interposed between the outer clutch member and the driving friction disks; and

strap plates disposed between peripheral parts of the outer clutch member and peripheral parts of the driving friction disks, and connecting the respective peripheral parts of the outer clutch member and the driving friction disks.

18. (New) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 17, wherein the vibration control mechanism includes warped plate springs.

19. (New) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 18, wherein the vibration control mechanism further includes grommets disposed with the warped plate springs.

20. (New) The dry multiple-disk clutch according to claim 17, wherein the vibration control mechanism includes an annular vibration control plate and a coned disk spring which operatively engages the vibration control plate.